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CHARLES LOWELL,
TRUSTEE OF THE MUSEUM,
1898-1906.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of the Treasurer of the Museum. He had held office since his election as Trustee in December, 1898.

Sound judgment as a man of affairs, readiness in financial matters, and good memory for transactions were qualities Charles Lowell shared with many men of business; but unassuming address and amiable decision of character were traits particularly his own. His quiet force fitly corresponded with the spirit of the institution which he served both lovingly and well.

The Museum was closed on Monday, May 28, during the hour of Mr. Lowell's funeral.

The Educational Work of the Museum.

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT.

THE purposes named in the act incorporating the Museum are three: the erection of a building, the exhibition of works of art, and instruction in the fine arts. In their Annual Report for 1883 the Trustees stated that they proposed to discharge the duty last named, as they had already done and were then doing: (1) by collecting and exhibiting works of art; (2) by offering *students* facilities for copying; (3) by giving the public *free admission* on certain days; and (4) by permitting *schools of art* to occupy unused rooms in the building.

CATALOGUES. The first forward step in the educational activity of the Museum which followed upon this announcement took place four years later, in 1887, when the appointment of Mr. Koehler and Mr. Robinson in charge of the Print and Classical Departments made it possible to supplement the existing general Catalogue of the Museum by others relating to these collections; in 1887, 1891, and 1896, successive editions of the present Catalogue of Greek and Roman Casts; in 1893, a Catalogue of Greek Vases; and from 1887 to 1898 a succession of Catalogues of the Print Department. Other plans during this period to enlarge the educational influence of the Museum failed of accomplishment. The publication of an illustrated *Bulletin* had already, in 1881, been voted by the Trustees, and in the Annual Report for 1891 the provision of a *Lecture Room* was advocated as "a further step of great importance toward affording instruction in the fine arts." But the resources of the Museum both in men and money proved at the time insufficient for the realization of either project. A popular *Handbook* was proposed in 1892 to fill the place of the general Catalogue, but for like reasons the plan was laid aside. In the Annual Report for 1895 reference is made to the issue of *free tickets* during that year to a teacher with students, and while noting that

the results in attendance at the Museum were not commensurate with the effort, the report states that "at any rate, the function to educate, which we have assumed as one of the three great reasons of our being, would be more closely fulfilled by uniting ourselves in this manner with the schools."

MUSEUM SCHOOL. Fourteen years passed before the second important step could be taken in developing the educational influence of the Museum. In 1901 the Trustees accepted a bequest of \$100,000, from the late R. C. Billings for the School of Drawing and Painting, and voted at the same time to adopt the School as the School of the Museum.

During the five years that have elapsed since that date, the development of the administration of the Museum has permitted a rapid succession of advances in its educational activity. A number of catalogues have been published, the long-delayed projects for a Bulletin, for a Lecture Room, for a Handbook to the Museum, and for the systematic issue of Free Tickets have at length been carried through; and organized instruction has been begun in the Museum in the form of Lectures.

LATER CATALOGUES. Catalogues of the Collections have been published as follows: in 1901, the large quarto Catalogue of the Morse Collection of Japanese Pottery, at once accepted as the standard work upon this subject; in 1902, a monograph on the Perkins Collection of Greek and Roman Coins; in 1904, a Manual of Italian Renaissance Sculpture, based on our collection of casts. Three catalogues of special exhibitions have also been issued: in 1903, a catalogue of Japanese Woodcarvings, following two catalogues of Japanese painting issued ten years previously, and in 1904 catalogues of Early American Engraving and Turner's Liber Studiorum.

BULLETIN. The issue of a Bulletin of the Museum was finally begun in 1903, having twice previously been undertaken without result, in 1882 and again in 1897. It was the earliest publication of the kind to be printed by any art museum in America, with the exception of that of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, which appeared while the first number was in preparation. In 1903 the number of copies issued was 75,500; in 1904, 99,500; in 1905, 110,300. It is an eight-page illustrated bi-monthly, distributed gratuitously, mainly to visitors to the Museum, but also by mail to a large number of interested persons both in this country and abroad.

LECTURE ROOM. The Lecture Room advocated in the Report for 1891 was referred to in that of the following year as the chief need of the Museum in the effort to make "the significance of its collections both clear and interesting to the public and to students." Until the present year it has been found impossible to provide such a room, but under the pressure of urgent necessity, space has finally been obtained for it by giving two